



A circular black and white stamp. The text "OIP" is at the top, "JC68" is at the top right, "OFFICE" is on the right, "PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK" is at the bottom, and "JUN 29 2001" is in the center.

Group Art Unit: 1754

Examiner: Unassigned

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a water bath for accommodating the saturator; and  
a circulator connected to the water bath.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the local heater comprises:  
a microwave generator for generating microwaves; and  
a microwave guide connected to the reactor, the microwave guide guiding the microwaves  
to the reactor.

21. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the local heater comprises:  
a high-frequency coil installed around the reactor; and  
a power supply for applying high-frequency current to the high-frequency coil.

22. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the local heater comprises a radio frequency  
generator installed near the reactor.

23. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the local heater comprises:  
a laser beam generator installed near the reactor; and  
a lens for focusing laser beams generated by the laser beam generator.--



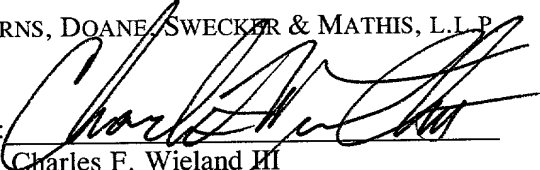
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 17-23 have been added to round out the scope of protection being sought. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the new claims 17-23.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By:

  
Charles F. Wieland III  
Registration No. 33,096

Date: June 29, 2001

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620



### Abstract of the Disclosure

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